

OUR OMNIBUS.

PIPER PAN.

There is a more than usually strong list of concert and oratorio performances announced for Good Friday. In the afternoon there will be a grand sacred concert at the Crystal Palace, and a performance of "The Redemption" at the Queen's Hall. In the evening Sir Joseph Barnby's choir will give "The Messiah" at the Albert Hall; Mr. Ambrose Austin's annual sacred concert will be held at St. James's Hall, and a concert of sacred music will take place at the Queen's Hall. It would occupy too much space to name all the artists who will take part in these attractive Good Friday entertainments, so it must suffice to say that artists of the highest eminence will appear at each.

The last of Mr. Chappell's popular concerts will take place on Monday evening at St. James's Hall, when Dr. Joachim will play his own arrangement of Brahms' delightful "Hungarian Dances." Brahms' sextet for strings will also be performed, the executants being Dr. Joachim, M.M. Pries, Gibson, Hobday, Paul Ludwig, and Hugo Becker. Miss Fanny Davies, Mlle. Eibenschütz, Mr. Leonard Borwick, and Mr. David Hall will contribute pianoforte and vocal selections.

Herr Emil Lauer has returned to Germany, and I am sorry to hear that he has abandoned the idea of giving some pianoforte recitals in London this summer; also that, in all probability, he will not play here again until the winter season of the popular concerts.

Herr Willy Burmeister's return to Germany directly after his one appearance is another disappointment. His marvellous playing of the Paganini music at Mrs. Henschel's concert naturally created a work of supererogation in the minds of his admirers, but we shall now have to wait until the autumn, when he returns here to play at one of the Richter concerts.

I am glad to find that the talented young Scotch soprano, Miss Marguerite Macintyre, is engaged for Sir Augustus Harris's grand opera season at Covent Garden, and will make her "re-appearance" as Isolde in Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde." Miss Macintyre has been absent far too long from London, and her return will be warmly welcomed.

Sir Augustus Harris will have a busy time with opera during the next few months. His English opera season at popular prices commences at Drury Lane on Easter Saturday, April 13, Balfe's tuneful "Bohemian Girl" being chosen for the opening performance. A month later the Italian opera season begins at Covent Garden, and shortly afterwards the indefatigable entrepreneur will start a season of German opera.

Madame Marchesi, the celebrated teacher of singing in Paris, has just celebrated the 40th anniversary of the opening of her singing school. Among the pupils who come to her pupils are Madames Kraus, Gerster, Nevada, Eames, Melba, and Esther Palliser.

Herr Eduard Strauss, the celebrated waltz composer, Imperial and Royal Music Director to the Austro-Hungarian Court, has been engaged to bring his orchestra over here and conduct a series of concerts during the London season. During the engagement the whole repertoire of his father's, brothers', and his own compositions will be performed, and with the remembrance of some of the famous Strauss waltzes comes the pleasant anticipation of hearing them played to perfection by Herr Strauss and his renowned body of instrumentalists.

It appears that the law in Holland is stringent regarding child labour. A police inspector recently tried to make a real boy, Master Paul Kozalski, taking place on the ground that the boy used his hands to play the piano, and was therefore working. The officer was only convinced with great difficulty that art and labour are not the same thing. Master Kozalski, the child pianist engaged to bring his orchestra over here, made a sensation here about a year and a half ago with his wonderful playing.

The students of the Guildhall School of Music will give a performance of Gounod's "Roméo et Juliette" in the middle of next month, the opera being conducted by Sir Joseph Barnby, president of the institution.

I hear that in all probability Mr. George Grossmith will carry on the German Reed entertainments at St. George's Hall as soon as his present engagement terminates at the Lyric Theatre.

Mr. Normand Salmond has gone to South Africa for a holiday. The popular baritone has not been enjoying good health for some time, and it is hoped that the sea voyage will be beneficial to him.

Messrs. Schott have just issued a most excellent arrangement for the organ, written by Dr. Creer, organist at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, of the overture to Humperdinck's "Hansel und Gretel."

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Last week brought us news from Manchester of a box constrictor having laid 20 eggs in its cage in the Belle Vue Gardens, and that the occurrence is looked upon as an unprecedented one in the annals of English snake history. Serpents are very wonderful creatures, and possess many peculiar powers, one of which is that of depositing or retaining their eggs at will, so that, consequently, the young are sometimes hatched within the mother and brought forth alive, and at other times they are hatched from the eggs after they have been deposited. The fact of this box constrictor having laid its eggs in captivity might be the first on record, but it is not the first time that the box has been bred in this country. For in June, 1877, an individual brought forth 20 live ones in the London Zoological Gardens. That the number of eggs and young ones should be the same in the respective cases is a rather curious coincidence.

With regard to the incubation of snakes, the python and a few others have been known to sit on their eggs and hatch them; the other members of the snake tribe either produce their young alive or deposit their eggs in some place where the heat of the sun or that generated by decaying vegetable matter, &c., is sufficient to hatch them. In the viperous snakes, or those that bring forth their young ones alive, and those snakes that sit upon their eggs, an appreciable warm temperature has been detected during incubation, in the former before they are deposited, and in the latter while sitting on them, the hatching of the eggs is due to maternal warmth in some species and to natural heat in others. The eggs laid in the Manchester Gardens are, I believe, to be hatched in a heated greenhouse.

Apologies of my note to the issue of March 24, on the contents of the gazette of fowl, I have just read in an article, in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens, in the Australian "Leader," that the director of that establishment has got together quite an interesting collection of articles from the nests of animals, that could only have been brought into the gardens out of pure mis-

chievousness, some of which unfortunately had caused the death of many valuable animals. Previous inexplicable deaths of animals apparently in good health were accounted for, on post mortem examination, by the indigestible contents of the stomachs. The feeding of animals in zoological collections by visitors is no doubt the cause of much loss and death amongst them, and it is a difficult task for the authorities to prevent it, for some people will not be made to understand that what is good for one creature is injurious to another.

It is stated in this article that visitors who have seen the European gardens, where artificial heat must be resorted to to keep some of the animals at all, remark on the sleek and healthy condition of the captives in the Melbourne Gardens, where the climate is warm and generally equable. The death rate of the European gardens is said to be 30 per cent. per annum at Melbourne only 10 per cent.

A glance at the animals figured on the plate accompanying the article, which are reproduced from photographs, bears out the statement with regard to their healthy appearance.

In the same paper, dated Feb. 23, tells us that in consequence of the extremely hot and dry weather and the insufficiency of water in Australia many fowls and other birds have died. This is quite a different tale to what we have had to tell; on the contrary, as we all know, the intense cold has been the cause of death to countless numbers of our feathered friends.

A case of "the bitter bit" was reported in "The Standard" of last week from near Königsberg. Two others were seen depositing themselves on the ice of the Frische Haff, when presently a large hawk swooped down and seized one of the animals. After a desperate fight the hawk was left dead, with its neck almost bitten through. The report does not tell us what sort of hawk the bird was, but I should say it was probably a sea-eagle or an osprey, and driven by hunger to make an attempt on such a formidable antagonist as the otter.

Recently the animal trainer of Anderson and Haalam's menagerie was savagely attacked by a lioness while being put through her performance. After the application of hot irons, and the firing of revolver shots at the beast, the man was rescued, but in a few minutes died. On Monday last an attendant of one of the elephants in Sanger's Circus in a provincial town was knocked down by the beast and almost gored to death; when picked up one of his arms and a leg were found to be fractured. One is continually hearing of such like accidents, but it is not to be wondered at, for the opportunity when the trainer is not on guard, given to the animals to attack as so frequent, and beasts as well as human beings often lose their tempers, and their superior force and savage nature are more than a match for man's powers of chastisement and prevention.

The additions to the Zoological Society's menagerie during the week ending April 2 were:—A Rhesus monkey, a Vervet monkey, an Egyptian jerboa, two oak dormice, a Cape viper, a Brazilian three-banded armadillo, a grey-breasted parakeet, a Hooleek, a grey parakeet, a green parakeet, and a fine yellow, quite black, with the exception of a white streak above the forehead. He has already made himself quite at home in his new house, but he has no respect for his fellow-lodgers, for he makes no end of noise, and he doubt disturbs the peace. Amongst the deaths during the week, the following are noted:—A specimen of the pied variety of the ostrich, which had not been in the gardens a very long time.

THE ACTOR.

The death-roll of the past few days includes the names of Clifford Cooper and Fleming Norton, the former of whom retired from the stage, while the latter had not appeared on it for years. I first saw Clifford Cooper in "Our American Cousin," in which, I fancy, he played the title part. His greatest artistic success, perhaps, was as the hero of "Ready Money Mortiboy," in which he secured the hearty approbation of the judicious critic, Dutton Cook. Fleming Norton, if I remember rightly, was in the original cast of "Billie Taylor," and he is now represented on the boards by his clever daughter, Miss Ethel Norton.

The Mr. Henry Lee who is just now securing so much applause at the Palace by his impersonations of modern celebrities is, I believe, the Mr. Henry Lee who opened the Avenue Theatre some years ago, and produced there a dramatic version of "Monte Cristo." He is, I fancy, an actor by profession, and if so, that will account for the excellence of his various "make-ups," his self-possession, and the clearness of his elocution. The "dialogue" he speaks is ascribed to Mr. Malcolm Watson, but Mr. Watson assuredly did not write the lines which Mr. Lee puts into the mouth of Tennyson—lines for which the poet himself is responsible.

I looked in at the Theatre Metropole on Wednesday night, and found the house occupied from floor to ceiling. There was not a seat to be had anywhere, and the sight of the crowded house was exhilarating. When I last saw "The Chieftain" at the Metropole, that theatre was half empty; to the Metropole the opera has been drawing thousands. Of course, the prices of seats are lower, but even allowing for that, one sees that the popularity of the opera in London is by no means exhausted. One sees, too, that a West-end success may very well hope for a second harvest at the "out-lying" theatres. Next week "The Chieftain" is to be played at Brighton.

As I expected would be the case, the Theatre Metropole is supplying the West-end playgoer with many opportunities of seeing interesting "make-ups," which otherwise might not come within his reach. For example, on April 22, Miss Olga Brandon will begin, at Mr. Mulholland's theatre, a week's engagement in "La Tosca," a piece in which she is now touring the provinces. The title part ought to suit her excellently, and there should be no difficulty in seeing her in it. Among her supporters in the case is the experienced and trustworthy actor, Mr. George P. Hawtry.

Talking of the provinces, they have just been making the acquaintance of a couple of pieces which are destined to be seen in London before long. One of these is "The Ladies' Idol," the piece by Mr. Arthur Law, with which Mr. Weedon Grossmith will re-open the Vaudeville. This would appear to be, at present, a little overweighted by plot. In the cast, besides Mr. Grossmith and Mr. Sidney Austin, are Mr. Beauchamp, Mr. Volmer, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Miss Homfrey, Miss Beringer, and Miss Palfrey, all of whom were in "The New Boy." To these have been added Mr. C. P. Little and Miss Helen Ferrers.

The other piece to which I refer is "All Abroad," a musical comedy of the "Gaiety Girl" sort, by Messrs. "Owen Hall" and J. T. Tanner. The title had been already used by Mr. Arthur Law, who, however, has waived his right to it. The music is by several hands, but mainly by Mr. Frederick Rose, a young tenor, who figured originally in the cast of "Go-Bang," at the Trafalgar, but whose powers as an actor were not great.

In "All Abroad" there are several players well known in London—e.g., Mr. C. E. Stevens, Mr. F. Emery, Mr. J. Coates (late of the Savoy), Mr. Horace Mills, and Miss Ida Bowman. Miss Minnie Jeffe is the principal lady.

There can be no question that Miss Olga Nethercole, who will soon be among us again, has made a very favourable impression in America. I have had the pleasure of reading the pronouncements of the five leading newspapers in Boston on her Marguerite Gauthier, and they are unanimous in their testimony to her brilliant acting in the part. Miss Nethercole has been playing in America parts which she had no opportunity of playing here, and which appear to have brought out all that is most powerful in her method.

OLD IZAAK.

The Thames trout season opened on Monday last, and although many anglers were on the warpath, very little was done, which is not to be wondered at considering the cold and treacherous weather. In the A.P.S. district the water had risen about two feet, and was coming down very thick. The weirs are drawn, and no good fishing can be expected until better weather sets in. The Mole that were in such large numbers in the Mole at Hampton Court have dropped back to the Thames.

The work of collecting and removing the barren swans belonging to her Majesty and the Dyers and Vintners' Companies, in which Mr. Alfred Nuthall and others have taken so much interest, was finished on Monday, and for a time they will be kept clear of the river. It is at present regarded as very dangerous to go out on the water, and only a fortnight's respite from the ravages of these birds among the fish spawn is now promised. It is devoutly to be hoped the time will be extended, for a fortnight is too short to be of much service, and if anything can be done to keep off the ducks as well, all anglers will heartily rejoice.

The Anglers' Benevolent Competition was concluded last Sunday on the Lea, between St. Margaret's and Ware, and I understand the prizes were all taken, although sport was very meagre. Mr. Barker, of the Good Intent was first on this occasion with 11b. 13oz. of roach, the best take of all. It is to be hoped these big Lea competitions will be unduly multiplied, for they are rarely attended with success so far as the competitors are concerned, and are not wholly free from objection, from other points of view.

The Howick Brothers hold their festival at the Lord Howick, Trinity-street, Woolwich, on Monday evening, when their annual dinner and prize distribution comes off. Mr. W. J. Wade, the popular secretary of the Central Anglers' Association, is sure to be surrounded by well-known angling friends. I wish the society the prosperity it so well deserves.

A correspondent kindly writes me from Teignmouth about what he thinks a curious fish, respecting which I may say a word or two later on. The creature is a fine, scaling fish, with two smooth cobble stones in its maw, weighing over 5lb., which had been used as sinkers to a deep-sea fishing line, is also recorded. The ling, like the cod, belongs to a most voracious family, and at times nothing comes amiss to it. A variety of articles have been taken from the stomach of the cod; among them a book, tallow candles, and a bunch of keys, but these are obviously not its every-day food.

The Dibdin Anglers, a new society, holding their meetings at St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, Camden Town, announce a grand opening night for Wednesday next, April 10, when the Bostonians will pay them an official visit, and Mr. Joseph Jennings will preside. The chair is to be taken at 8 p.m., and all anglers will receive a hearty welcome.

A concert is to be given at the Alma Music Hall, Alma-street, New North-road, on Tuesday evening, for the benefit of Mr. James Newton, late member of the Amiable Brothers and Sisters' old Met. I understand him to be a most deserving man, and consequently wish success to the entertainment.

The Pictorial Society had a capital meeting last week at the Holborn Restaurant, under the genial presidency of Mr. R. S. Jennings. Seven new members were elected, and another proposed. A new trout of 2lb. 5oz. from the Ver was the chairman's table, and Dr. Head took one at Reading (scaling 5lb.), where he reports plenty of fish on the move. Several members fished the society's water at Newbury, and all caught fish, but many big specimens have lately been shown. On Friday next, it will be high water at Yarmouth at 11.5 a.m. and 1.5 p.m., Ramsgate and Margate 1.35 p.m., and at the Nore 2.21 p.m., and the 1st time for fishing at any of these places will be within about a couple of hours, either side of the hours named.

Many of my readers may avail themselves of the coming holidays to do a little sea fishing, for which the tides will then be decidedly favourable. On Friday next, it will be high water at Yarmouth at 11.5 a.m. and 1.5 p.m., Ramsgate and Margate 1.35 p.m., and at the Nore 2.21 p.m., and the 1st time for fishing at any of these places will be within about a couple of hours, either side of the hours named.

Mr. C. A. Medall presided over the Central Association meeting on Monday last, when 25 clubs were represented. There was some further discussion as to the desirability of utilising the waters in the public parks for fish-breeding purposes, and a committee consisting of Messrs. T. Crumpley, W. H. Elphinstone, and J. W. M. (present) was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Anglers' Association, and go into the question fully and report. Mr. G. Merry (Amiable Waltonians) was elected on to the Anglers' Benevolent Committee, and Mr. J. Dixey (Anglers' Pride) was nominated to serve on the general committee of the association. Mr. C. Watling gave in a satisfactory report on visiting officer, and Mr. Elsmore lucidly described the good work done by the T.A.P.S., before the meeting closed.

The judges of the exhibits of stuffed fish at the Aquarium have made their awards, which, on the whole, will be regarded as satisfactory. Mr. J. R. Willson, Mr. John Kelly, and other prominent anglers are well to the front, and no one will question their right to diplomas so worthily earned.

GENERAL CHATTER.

The "Modern Woman" has some representative, it appears, even among the lovely creatures who are engaged in Asiatic harems. No longer content to share a husband among moonlight ditties. Thus, in Eastern Bengal, the other day two of the many wives of a Mahomedan gentleman in Government employ bolted with a couple of good-looking boatmen. The indignation of the many-eyed Blue Beard on discovering his loss is said to have been immense. In vain did his other spouses endeavour to console their liege lord; he swore at them roundly, called

them "ugly bags," and vowed that the two truants were worth the whole billing.

From a Chinese paper I learn that two sailors lately picked up at sea in an open boat had subsisted for months on a diet of "flies and occasional showers." The flies must grow big in that part of the world, while it is sometimes the case, I believe, that the clouds rain down small fishes galore.

Let the advocates of "rational dress" say what they like, it is certainly unbecoming to ladies of corpulent build. Their charms are too much in evidence; they oppress the masculine mind with a sense of man's insignificance. There is a certain lady who, in her ordinary attire, looks to be merely a trifling plump, but when she appears at a fancy ball in a suit of "rational" not a single male had the courage to ask the ponderous-looking being to dance.

When are the London water companies going to make a beginning with re-laying their mains at a proper depth? They don't seem to be in a hurry about it, but it is a matter that the next prolonged spell of bitter frost will find the metropolis once more the victim of frozen mains. There ought to be a water-trust for London, entirely free from the County Council and the vestries. Then we should know whom to hang in the event of things going wrong.

In spite of recent exposures of the tricks of Theosophy, that sham religion still has some besotted followers. A friend tells me that he knows a lady, intelligent, cultured, and well endowed, who believes that she can possess the power of holding command with those apocryphal Himalayan sages, the Mahatmas. They are even so obliging as to come at her call, per astral post, and in special good humour will condescend to drink tea with her. My informant asserts that he has reason to believe that the old gentleman pretends the beverage to be considerably laced with rum.

The cleansing of the lake in St. James's Park did not take place a moment too soon. Last summer the water stunk abominably; it almost astounded me when passing to see nursemaids, children, and loiterers slowly sauntering by the side of the evil-smelling ditch, just as if they relished the odious stench. It would be no bad thing if this stagnant pond were cleared out every winter; the Queen does right to fight shy of the ugly pool, which is a malodorous sewer within such easy-smelling distance.

There is a potentate in India who bears the proud title of "the Gaekwar of Baroda." The particular hobby of this illustrious personage is to collect costly jewellery. If he hears of any wonderful gem, he is at once beset by a longing to obtain it, and he will contrive to gratify the craving. Among other priceless articles in his treasure chamber is a carpet ten feet long and six feet wide, made entirely of white and coloured pearls, with garlands of splendid diamonds to form the pattern. The Gaekwar's annual income is said to be £400,000. And of what good is it to his owner? None whatever, whereas the Prince of Wales for a tithe of the sum gets any amount of pleasure, and no small amount of health, out of his grand cutter yacht, the Britannia.

The catch of seals this year is considered, I see, very disappointing. It may be so to the trade, but I should imagine that the poor seals must be more than satisfied with the amount of slaughter. Ten steamers lately arrived at John's, Newfoundland, had between them secured 44,000 seals, and their only comfort is to remember that if the animals were left to multiply, their food supplies would soon run short and they would have to become cannibals.

Complaint is often made against the police for not sternly suppressing the hateful practice of stone-throwing by street boys. Neither the police nor the magistrates are in any way to blame, as was sufficiently shown in a case which came before the West London stipendiary the other day. A gang of urchins were seen to throw stones at a lady, and one of them struck a little girl who was passing and killed her; the police took into custody the juvenile delinquent. But the bench had to let him go unwhipped, because the infliction of a fine would have fallen on the parents, while the offence is not one that can be dealt with by the birch.

The price of wheat is beginning to creep up a little, but it is still a very long way from the level which would justify bakers in advancing the price of bread. It will be time enough for that when the wheat quotation is 30s. 6d. per quarter, which is the present, nor would it surprise me were that to occur before the year runs out. All experts are agreed that the foreign supply will be very much less than it was last year, especially from South America, where there has been a very short harvest.

A certain advanced Radical determined to establish "Home Rule all round" in his household. He only reserved to himself the control of ways and means; in all other matters the rule was to be "go as you please." The system worked admirably for a time. The family, Materfamilias, who had a liking for music, halls, gratified almost nightly, not returning home until almost daylight did appear. The children played high jinks generally; having unanimously voted that education crippled freedom, they never went near school. But it was the servants who chiefly profited by the new system; breakfast being served at such time as suited their convenience, and when at work as pursued their pleasure. I hear that the head of this interesting household is beginning to doubt whether "Home Rule all round" is such an excellent thing as he imagined.

It is again whispered that Lord Rosbery aspires to become the son-in-law of the Prince of Wales, but that the proposal cannot ever be considered so long as he occupies the position of Prime Minister. Of course, I only give the story for what it may prove worth; if there be any truth in it, perhaps Lord Rosbery's inclination to shuffle off the cares of State may be based on a more tender sentiment than regard for his own health.

MADAME.

Crepon in its almost numberless varieties is without doubt the favourite material of the hour, not so much for every day walking costumes as for dressy occasions. For ordinary wear, serge, hopstock, tweed, and cloth are more suitable. The very fashionable variety of crepon is that with large rough crinkles over the entire surface; it appears both in black and colours. I have seen some very smart little spring caps in black crepon of this description. One I thought specially pretty wore a round full shape ending in the above the waist line, the neck finished with full ruffe of black chiffon, fastening in front with a big bow of black satin ribbon with long ends.

The advantage of this material is that it is in itself so dressy it does not require much trimming. I was greatly taken by a very effective gown of black crepon, the surface covered with large rough crinkles. The full plain made skirt, although without trimming of any description, looked rich and handsome. The tight-fitting bodice had a

Washed opening in front filled in with moss green silk. Very full sleeves with drooping tops had long under sleeves of the green silk; the folded collar band was also of green silk.

For those who cannot afford many new gowns a good black crepon will be found decidedly economical. It keeps its colour well and gives excellent wear. By a little care and clever management it may be made to appear as a new gown on several occasions during the season. Take the gown I have just described, for instance, by substituting either old rose or doffed silk for the moss green you effect a complete alteration. Another very effective change would be to have the V opening, under sleeves, and collar band of cream satin covered with either crease lace or embroidery. Many other alterations will suggest themselves that could easily be carried out.

Another charming gown was of coloured crepon in an exquisite shade of blue with a slight tinge of green mingling through it. The trimmings were black satin, crease lace, and jet. The skirt, as in the case of the black crepon, was without trimming. It was the new cut of wide skirt with a close fit above, the fulness falling at the back in voluminous folds. The bodice was made with a deep yoke covered with crease lace, into which was set a full pouch front; the back was tight fitting. The sleeves, with wide top, had long plain cuffs covered with crease lace; the collar and waist band were of black satin arranged in soft folds. Narrow lines of jet trimmed the lace-covered yoke and the under sleeves.

As I told you a little while ago, cape and skirt costumes are becoming immensely popular. Not that the regulation coat and skirt is by any means out of date, but undoubtedly the new style is running it very closely in popularity just now. For one thing, a pretty little cape adapts itself to almost any build of figure, while a tailor-made coat and skirt costume cannot be worn becomingly by everyone. It needs a good figure to carry off well the more severe style.

A cape and skirt costume looks perhaps at its best in either covert coating or smooth-surfaced cloth in black or some subdued tone of colouring. Dark shades of grey, blue, and brown go well. The newest capes are a circular shape, standing out in pleated folds from the figure. The costume skirt should be cut to the regulation walking length and gored so as to fit evenly over the hips. A blouse bodice toning with the colour of the skirt and cape may be worn.

Velveten blouses are in high favour at the present time. A velvet blouse looks particularly well in the afternoon over a plain black skirt. The fashionable make is to have the back tight fitting with a loose box-pleated front slightly overhanging the waistband, the blouse fastening down the centre pleat with small fancy buttons of paste or cut steel. A good effect can be obtained by covering the pleats with lace, jet, passementerie, or embroidery. In nearly every case now the blouse is worn tucked under the skirt at the waist.

I grieve to have to record the fact, but so it is. Wider and wider grow our skirts day by day, calling forth many an anxious inquiry as to whether it is to end in the re-introduction of the crinoline. Let us hope not; but we have come to the insertion of a steel round the foot to enable the wearer to manage the blouse fastening down the centre pleat with small fancy buttons of paste or cut steel. A good effect can be obtained by covering the pleats with lace, jet, passementerie, or embroidery. In nearly every case now the blouse is worn tucked under the skirt at the waist.

Huge neck ruffles are the order of the day. Not only are they to be seen out of doors as a finish to the necks of capes and mantles, but they are worn indoors over plain cloth gowns as a decoration, but to a deadly tea socket. They are made of black and coloured chiffon, ribbon, net, lace, and gauze. No matter what the ruffle may be composed of, it is almost invariably decorated with artificial flowers. To my mind the wearing of artificial flowers in the day time is not becoming, except in the case of the nursemaid, and I am sure that and so we decorate even our fur boas with rose buds.

MR. WHEELER.

Literally the one subject of the past week has been the meeting of the London Centre of the Council of the N.C.U. Sundry persons have been identified with the race, and had been working hard for weeks to organise a caucus vote; by means of one sort and another they secured the support of one or two persons whose names are useful to conjure with, and they looked for a triumph. The programme was a simple one. Having captured the night of the meeting, the members of riders, nor licensees, were to secure those permits, and the rest were to be rigorously refused in the hope that the outcry which would assuredly arise would afford good grounds for the abolition of the license scheme, and the ending of the domination of "amateurism." The result must vastly encourage all believers in amateurism, despite the fact that no less than 20 proxies were disallowed by a temporary and progressist chairman because they were not in accord with the "rule" which he evolved, presumably "at the crime" of his own free will, and in the anti-amateur party were beaten all along the line. They failed to secure the election of one of their candidates when a contest occurred, and the London Centre Council duly followed suit.

I cannot help being amused over the reports of the Anchor Shield return; the terrible fact that it was a success seems to have played havoc with the nerves, not to mention the moods and tempers of some of the writers in the cycling press. I notice, by the way, that the London Centre has been showing, notably in "The Wheeler," "English Sports," which latter paper, by the way, has recently taken to itself the subtitle of "Amateur Wheelman." The group photo it prints taken at the Angel is capital.

I am told by one who knows that the rational dresses at Ditton on Saturday week "averaged awful," to use his quaint but emphatic expression. Not too soon by a very long way some one has drawn attention to the harm which must be inflicted on the sport by the constant stream of exaggerated vilification with which some papers which claim to be "devoted to cycling" assault the sport. I know cycling is not perfect, but what sport is? The sport of cycling is vastly better and cleaner than some people would believe after reading one particular cycling paper at least.

I am informed by the honorary secretary of the promoting club that he has been informed from Claremont that though H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany was unable to view the Anchor Shield procession, the Princess Alice Mary did so, and was very much pleased with the novel spectacle. The duchess always takes a kindly interest in her neighbours, and so pronouncedly Surrey a function as the one under notice was certain to receive her support and encouragement.

At last I hear definitely as regards the surface of the Catford track; it is to be slate-coloured cement. At any rate the colour appears appropriate. The Wood Green surface has not yet been decided upon, all state-

ments to the contrary notwithstanding, and a new "Alexandra Palace track" of battens, it is said, is to be put up somewhere in the neighbourhood of the old path. North London looks like having too much of a good thing in the matter of paths ere long. Well! the more the merrier, I say.

The decision of the Union Council to allow professionals and unlicensed men to make records when and where they please, whilst imposing the most stringent conditions on the licensed men alone, is utterly illogical and ridiculous. The supporters of the professional do his cause no good at all by such attacks on the amateur, and the amateur is in the very best position to resent such attacks, as he is not at all astonished at the storm raised thereby.

In the meanwhile the amateur party have captured every seat it fought for on the various committees of the Union, and the caucus which was put forward by the amateur, finally and irrevocably in the hands of the trade has failed utterly and completely.

So road racing is not to be stopped by the N.C.U., the council in its wisdom declining to adopt the drastic resolutions submitted; it remains, therefore, for the police authorities to renew their vigilance on all the highways most affected by the road racing mania, and to check by the power of the law what the cyclists will not check themselves. And this, of course, implies many hard cases amongst the ordinary users of the road, who will suffer for the sins of others as a matter of course.

I hope that the A.A.A. will show no hesitancy in its reply to the request which, thanks to the preponderance of the professional party, is to be put to it, viz., to permit professional racing at mixed meetings. I do not imagine for one moment that the A.A.A. will bow down before the cycling professional. If it does so it must clearly admit the running professional also, and the result will be disastrous. I myself am of opinion that if the A.A.A. were just now to offer representation to cycling clubs, quite a number of those which support amateurism would join willingly.

Easter tours are the burning question just now. The Stanley C.C. go to France, and under the able guidance of Paul Hardy visit Rouen and its neighbourhood, whilst the English tour of the same club is to the Isle of Wight. It is scarcely late enough for a trip in the New Forest, where the roads get very sandy and bad as the summer approaches, but the south coast generally may be recommended, though, of course, if a run across the Channel can be managed it will be more likely to prove successful, as both roads and weather may be better. I can remember basking in a hot sun one Easter in the Pas de Calais, when the Volunteers at Brighton were suffering from a heavy snow-fall and cold, so the cross-Channel trip should be preferred if the chance offers.

DIVORCE PLOT.

At the Central Criminal Court, the trial was resumed and concluded on Monday of Henry J. Clarke, 45, agent, and Ellen Lyons, 30, on an indictment charging them with attempting to pervert the due course of law, and attempting to induce Mrs. Barrett to misconduct herself.—Clarke took 15s.; Lyons 12s.

CITY SHOOTING CASE.

An attempt to murder Mary Rider, a girl of 17, was made on Tuesday night in Cross Key-square, Aldersgate-street, and her alleged assailant, George Skears, lately residing with his parents at the 10, Aldersgate-street, has committed suicide. Skears, who is 20 years of age, was found dead in Highbury Fields. Shots were heard in the vicinity on Tuesday evening; but it was not until the Fields were opened on Wednesday that the body was found lying on the grass. By the side of the body lay a revolver, and near it was a small bottle. Deceased's eldest brother identified the body as that of George Skears, aged 20, and in view of the allegation made by the injured woman Rider, the police took possession of the contents of all the pockets of the deceased pending investigation. The young woman Rider remains at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and there is no improvement in her condition.

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HAVE OPENED IMPORTANT PREMISES at 11, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C. One Month's Free Trial given to bona fide Purchasers.

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ARE THE BEST, EASY RIDING, DOWNHILL, and all other kinds of cycles. Special Cash Prices. Free Delivery. Write for Illustrated Catalogue. One Month's Free Trial given to bona fide Purchasers.

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BEECHAM'S PILLS FOR BILIOUS ATTACKS.
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BEECHAM'S PILLS FOR INDIGESTION IN ALL ITS FORMS.
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THE PEOPLE, SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1895.

THEFT OF A SCARF PIN.
At the County of London Sessions

Smith was indicted for stealing a scarf from a gentleman unknown.—P.S. Twigg posed that on the night of March 17 he was duty outside the Central Hall, Hammersmith, where a boxing competition was being held. There were a number of people round the door, and he saw prisoner with another man, who was surrounded by a crowd. He watched them, and saw the prisoner put his hand in a gentleman's shoulder from behind and his scarf pin. Twigg then reached out, and seized the man by the arm, and the intervening people and seized the prisoner's wrist, and at the same time the gentleman took hold of the prisoner's hand, opened it, and took his pin from it. Prisoner was taken to the police station, and the gentleman referred to by Twigg, saying he did not want it known he had been at the boxing match.—20 months.



REVOLVER ACCIDENT IN HATTON GARDEN.

On Saturday a serious revolver accident occurred in Hatton Garden. Two Italian workmen, Antonio Obertelli and Giovanni Patti, who were together in Summer-street, Hatton-garden, were testing a loaded revolver they had just purchased, when it suddenly exploded, the bullet entering Obertelli's right arm, and passing into the spine. The injured man was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in a very unconscious condition.

[illegible]

Earl Spencer has returned to London. He will be succeeded as Minister of the Interior by Lord Ripon, who will shortly leave for the Riviera.

The will of Sir W. S. Savory, Bart., late President of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been proved by the Rev. B. Savory, son and successor and sole executor of deceased. The amount of the testator's personalty is sworn at £93,100.

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 papers, and he is always ready to be paid. If you can
 what he does—well, write to him and I will be glad to
 be good enough.—**A. CLARK, LINCINN, OHIO.**

HARRY WILLIAMSON.
(THE CHAMPIO'S TELEGRAPHIST, will send his

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 more—nothing like but one, which is generally a
 Mr. WILLIAMSON, 67, DITCHLING-ROAD, BRISTOL.

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 A GOOD THING for one of above meetings are
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GENTLEMEN wanting something good sent you
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INFORMATION from the most reliable and genuine
Send stamped antelope to
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FRANCOIS STELO'S Wives found in front. Remains of this week's, or 24, or for one day. Overnighting per week. A great success. To prove reliability of source, will visit with **BOULEVARD** and **CITY** and **McMURAN**. Send stamped card to **McMURAN** 1000, Halsey-street, London, N.E.

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GREAT PROPHET, MI
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LEADING TURF SPECIALIST
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T. A. MILLER wishes to state that he has been
with anyone who has ever seen him in the name of
DONT form to ask your friends if they
Grand 12 Moore and his 3-Horse Breed
good information that he has been in the
good. Meet with this quality in hundreds of

"Dear Sir: I was very much pleased with the article, and last week a Jiffone Wire told me that your best wires. Accept small present."

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T. A. MILLER is promising, and a man you can rely on for accurate information.
 He sure and got into next week. Hurry up to get yours and I'll have you done for you all in
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H RADICALS. E. KIMMELT, Corbett Garden, W.C.
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Founding members present and
WILLIAM COTTRELL FIFE, Secretary.

ROYAL OAK BENEFIT SOCIETY.
N. ELISEL-STREET, CORBETT GARDEN, W.C.
Established under Charter of Grand
Associations, 1860.
For admitting SICK PAID SUPERANNUATION,
PENSION, &c., see Circulars Nos. 1 and 2
and "THE BENEFITS."
Contributions fixed at 1/- per week, ACCORDING
TO AGE, thus the advantages to NEW AND YOUNG
Members are very great.
Members admitted from £10-£50.
SICK PAY, 1/- SUPERANNUATION, 6s.; and
PENSIONS, 10s. to £100 per week.
FUNDING, 40s and 50s; LIVING-IN, 2s.
Full particulars on request from the Secretary.
New Members are joining in large numbers.

**LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND
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ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
ABSTRACT FROM THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
REPORT.

NEW BUSINESS.
In the ORDINARY LIFE DEPARTMENT 1,128
Policies were issued, amounting £190,000, the Annual
Premiums being £17,000, and the sum assured
£1,000,000.
In the INDUSTRIAL BRANCH 22,318 Policies
were issued, amounting £1,000,000, the Annual
Premiums being £1,000,000, and the sum assured
£10,000,000.

1. KRUGER, midwife; comfortable before and during confinement; explains in any social matter; first-class

In the ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT the number of Policies issued rose, the New Premium income being £24,000, £4, and that the total number of Policies issued was 22,000, and that the Annual Premium Income on the New Business of the year was £14,000.

PREMIUM INCOME.
 The Premium Income for the year amounted to £24,000, £4, showing an increase of £2,000, £1, compared with 1910.

CLAIMS.
 The Company has, during 1911, paid Claims and Grants to the amount of £2,000, £4, and that the total Claims and Grants paid by the Company new account to £2,000, £1.

ASSET AND FUNDS.
 The Assets and Funds on 31st December last were £24,000, £1. This is an increase of £2,000, £1.

THOMAS REID, General Manager.
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INDUSTRIAL BRANCH	--	--	--	\$5,467.87
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All Claims are paid immediately upon satisfactory				

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First class from £12; Second Saloon from 6s.
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 Monthly sailings from London (Fifteenth two days later).
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